total tobacco export to Algeria over the period 1995-2000 was nil. In the period 2000-2001, non-Flue Cured Virginia tobacco has been exported in small quantities to Algeria. The details of tobacco export to Algeria over the past four years are as follows :

Year	Quantity (Tons)	Value in Rs. Crores
1998-1999.	NIL	NIL
1999-2000	NIL	NIL
2000-2001	500	2.12
2001-2002 (till July 2001)	479.36*	2.13*

(*) Provisional Estimates

SHIRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA : Sir, the hon. Minister in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2959, on August 21, 2000... *(Interruptions)* Sir, in this regard, I would like to ask the hon. Minister... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI : Sir, this is my maiden answer and I would request the House to please give me a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*... कमाल कर रहे हो। I am answering. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is a matter of dispute between two commercial companies in which.... *(Interruptions)* This is not a dispute between the Government and...*(Interruptions)*...

... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House is adjourned till 12 O' clock.

The House then adjourned at forty-five minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

National Tourism Policy

*302. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2001, and state :

(a) whether a Conference of State Tourism Ministers to discuss the draft National Tourism Policy was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the decisions arrived at the Conference; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to boost tourism and attract foreign tourists to the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Conference of Chief Ministers and Tourism Ministers was convened to discuss and obtain the views of the State/U.T. Governments on the draft National Tourism Policy.

(c) Various steps taken by the Government to boost tourism and attract foreign tourists to India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resources development, use of information technology and encouraging private investment in tourism sector including hotels.

Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. A reorientation in marketing efforts is also being made by focussing on markets in South East Asia and emphasising the significance of domestic tourism.

Tourist Inflow

*303 SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been steep downfall in International tourism which has adversely affected tourist inflow to our country;

(b) if so, the assessment made by Government for the last two years as compared to earlier years;

(c) the approximate loss in foreign exchange therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to improve tourist inflow in the coming two years ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) There has been positive growth of 5.2 per cent and 6.4 per cent in the foreign tourist arrivals during the years 1999 and 2000 as compared to the corresponding previous years. However, there has been a decline of 4.8 per cent